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THE FRESNO BEE



A Look At The New And Old — The Popular Trio As Seen In 1962 and 1973

## 'New' Limeliter Will Return For Reunion Show In Fresno

Sifting and sorting through pages of advanced publicity on return of The Limeliter, who will play the Selland Arena Wednesday, one wonders exactly what prompted the group to reunite after nearly a decade for this special concert tour.

Have the Limeliter, a decade or so ago the most popular of folk singing groups, really been "sorely missed" on the concert circuit?

Contacted by phone in Aspen, Colo. where the group is warming up, leader Glenn Yarbrough's immediate response to the question is laughter.

But he admits the response to the reunion tour thus far has been "pretty fantastic." The trio was greeted with a standing ovation in Denver when the curtain rose on the first concert two weeks ago.

### Good Audience

"The audience was responsive all right," Yarbrough recalled. "Lou (Gottlieb) and Alex (Hassilev) appreciated it more than I did because I've been performing right along. They've been out of it." Yarbrough has cut many albums since the group's demise in 1963.

Yarbrough first thought

of reuniting the group after his plans for taking a long cruise were shattered, along with his ankle, in a shipboard accident.

"I had to have several operations and it takes a long time to heal. Sitting around so much, I got to figuring: 'Say wouldn't it be fun and we could make a few bucks.'"

As it turned out, Hassilev (who had been producing records) and Gottlieb (who operates a commune in Sonoma County) had been toying with the same idea. The group got together in Los Angeles, liked the sound they put together and decided to launch the reunion tour.

### Brief Reunion

"The one prerequisite for the reunion, Yarbrough said, was that it be brief. When the schedule ends in a few weeks Hassilev will go back to Hollywood, Gottlieb to Morningstar (his commune ranch) and Yarbrough — he says determinedly — will get on that boat, headed for Costa Rica.

If the tour is successful, the group plans to come back once a year for a reunion of six or eight weeks.

The indication so far, Yarbrough says, is that the residue of Limeliter fans is

sufficient to assure the success of the tour concerts.

Obviously, 10 years makes for some changes in the trio as a group. Some of the changes may startle old fans.

One of them, as is obvious from the accompanying photos, is a more hirsute appearance.

### 'Look Like Bums'

"Remember how we all dressed in tuxedos before," recalls Yarbrough. "Now we look like bums."

"There'll be a lot of new

songs too. We'll also do what we used to do and I'll do some of the songs I did alone. On the whole, I'd say it's a lot better act. We're singing a lot better — the whole thing is better."

As Yarbrough recalls it now, the quality which distinguished The Limeliter of old was their individuality.

"Most folk groups, you'd see 'em as a group," he said. "We were three individuals who just incidentally sang some songs together. It's even more that way now."

## Grateful Dead Star Ron McKernan Dies

CORTE MADERA (UPI) — Ron McKernan, known as Pig Pen of the Grateful Dead to the nation's rock fans, was found dead in his apartment Thursday night. He was 27.

A neighbor, alarmed because McKernan had not been seen for two days, investigated and found the body on the bedroom floor.

McKernan had been in ill health for some time, but an autopsy was planned to determine the exact cause of death.

McKernan, who played

the organ and harp and also was a vocalist, was an original member of the Grateful Dead, one of the most influential rock groups in modern history.

They were almost as well known for their flamboyant costumes, communal living style and shaggy appearance as for their music.

McKernan's trademark was his unique appearance. He wore long black hair, an Indian headband, and a long black moustache and a well-used vest.

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greg7426  
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